

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's Action of September 21, 2004, has been received and reviewed by counsel for Assignee. In that Action claims 1-19 were presented for examination and were rejected under Sections 112 and 102, objection was made to the specification, and a new title was requested.

By this response counsel has amended the title, canceled all pending claims, and submits herewith new claims 20-23. These new claims are directed at the implementation shown in Figure 2 of this application. In particular, the new claims call out the register, decoder, ROM, multiplexer arrangement shown in Figure 2 together with the particular bits being provided to the particular circuitry.

This implementation is considerably different than the state machine shown in *Ellis, et al.*, U.S. 4,890,225, which formed the basis of the Examiner's rejection.

The state machine shown in *Ellis, et al.*, typifies the prior art described by Applicant in the Background, for example as described in paragraph 9 on page 2. In contrast, the state machine described in Applicant's specification and claimed in the new claims presented herewith, is directed toward employing general purpose components which enable the state machine to be reused, for example among various integrated circuits, even if it maintained in a dedicated hard form. Because the design is flexible, it allows increases or decreases in the number of external input signals, for example by expanding the size of the multiplexer, or by supplying such additional input signals to programmable logic or other pre-state machine logic. This enables the state machine to be implemented without relying upon hardwired logic, such as shown in the '225 prior art.

Accordingly, all claims are now believed allowable. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Appln. No. 10/056,326
Amendment. dated March 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2004

PATENT

Respectfully submitted,



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